

Appl. No. 10/018,459  
Amdt. dated January 7, 2004  
In response to Office action mailed Oct. 14, 2003

**REMARKS**

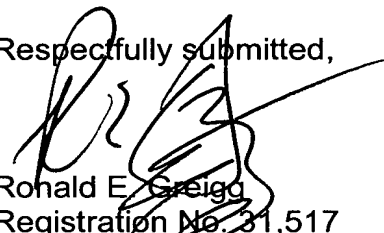
After this amendment, claims 8-23 remain pending in this application.

We have canceled claim 24 and incorporated the limitations of claim 24 into the parent independent claim 8, thereby making claim 8 allowable, since the examiner had indicated that claim 24 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form containing the limitations of any intervening claim.

Therefore, we submitted that claims 8-23 are now allowable, and their allowability is respectfully solicited.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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